WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:

    providing a network, the network having a first system;

    generating a request of a policy from the first system to a second system;

    retrieving the policy for the first system in the second system; and

    providing the policy to the first system.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising a third system for determining the policy the first system should receive.

3. The method of claim 1 in which the second system designates the parameters of the policy.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising a third system for receiving the policy from the second system.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the first system is a policy enabled node.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the policy enabled node is enabled by a node proxy.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the policy parameters are unique to the request.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the node is a computer.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the independent node is a software application.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein a provider facilitates transfer of the policy from a data source.

11. A method comprising:

    a policy implementation;

    generating a policy file;

    having a first system; and

    providing a second system to download the policy file for the first system.

12. The method of claim 11 having the same operating system for the first system and the second system.

13. The method of claim 11 having a different operating system for the first system and the second system.

5   14. A method comprising:

receiving a policy request from a first system;

processing the policy request in a second system;

retrieving a policy for the first system;

processing a final policy content from the policy; and

10   sending the final policy content to the first system.

15. The method of claim 14 having the same operating system for the first system and the second system.

16. The method of claim 14 having a different operating system for the first system and the second system.

15   17. The method of claim 1 further comprising a policy parameter wherein the policy parameter calls for each object.

18. The method of claim 11 further comprising a policy parameter wherein the policy parameter calls for each object.

19. The method of claim 14 further comprising a policy parameter wherein the policy parameter calls for each object.

20   20. The method of claim 1 wherein the first system uses Extensible Markup Language (XML), Directory Services Markup Language (DSML), or Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP).

21. The method of claim 11 wherein the first system uses Extensible Markup 25   Language (XML), Directory Services Markup Language (DSML), or Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP).

22. The method of claim 14 wherein the first system uses Extensible Markup Language (XML), Directory Services Markup Language (DSML), or Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP).

30   23. A method for implementing policies for the administration of nodes connected to a network having at least, a single node or plurality of nodes to be policy enabled, one or more policy managers that determine the specific policy the

node(s) should receive, and one or more data sources for the storage of policies, said method comprising the steps of:

5

providing for the request of a policy from the node or node proxy to the policy manager, with the specific policy parameters for the particular node making the request;

providing for the determination of the particular provider needed to facilitate transfer of the requested policy from the data source;

10

providing for the transfer of a resultant list of policies from the particular data source based on the policy parameters;

providing for the modification of the list of policies in accordance with a dynamic set of policy rules;

providing for the retrieval of the policy settings associated with the policies in the modified list;

15

providing for the transfer of the policy attributes to the particular node making the request; and

providing for the implementation of the policy attributes on the particular node making the request.

20